

**Marek Bennett**

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Henniker, NH 03242  
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[www.marekbennett.com](http://www.marekbennett.com)

Contact: Marek Bennett  
Arts Discipline: **Comics**

**Comics Workshop Description:** Join NH teaching cartoonist Marek Bennett's COMICS WORKSHOP as we explore the comics creation process, from designing dynamic characters and rich environments to telling exciting stories in eye-catching panels and readable pages. Marek shares his work with hero characters in his fictional, autobiographical, and historical comics, and helps kids create an original comic based on a hero in their life. What makes a hero? How do we draw them? How do we capture action and meaning in our artwork, and how do we hold the reader's attention in the interplay of our visual and verbal storytelling? This interactive workshop builds literacy skills, shares complex project organization and self-publishing techniques, and helps young artists engage productively with their communities. We'll finish the workshop with a dramatic reading of our hero comics, and go home with all the skills necessary to continue creating comics all summer long.

**Length of Workshop:** 2-4 hours

**Workshop suited for:** ages 8 and up (usual groupings = ages 8-11, ages 10-13, teens)

**Number of participants:** up to 25

**Workshop can be conducted:** indoors

**Fee:** \$350

**Mileage Charge:** \$0.50/mile

**Block booking rates available**

**Workshop Space Requirements:** digital projector & screen/display surface, chairs for participants. **ART SUPPLIES:** tables, copy paper—8.5x11, pencils. (Marek will bring pens, markers, art tools, and art samples. He can also supply digital projector with advance notice.)

**Alternative Program:** 1 hour dramatic reading & discussion (without workshop); **Fee** = \$250,

**Number of participants** = up to 60, all other details as above, minus ART SUPPLIES.

## Steve Blunt

12 Burnett Street  
Nashua, NH 03060  
603-888-3866  
steveblunt@comcast.net  
[www.steveblunt.com](http://www.steveblunt.com)

Contact: Steve Blunt  
Arts Discipline: **Music**

Choose from three programs:

**STEVE BLUNT (Solo):** “The Super-Amazing Sing-Along!” *Pow! Bam! La-la-la!* Steve presents an action-packed musical adventure for the whole family--with catchy original tunes and lots of audience participation. Steve’s not-so-secret superpower is his ability to engage children in the 0-10 age range, from babies and toddlers to big kids--and their parents, too. This year’s show features the original tune “Every Hero Has a Story” and a special costumed appearance by “Super Reading Man,” who sings his rockin’ theme song and gives a few quick booktalks sure to inspire “Super Readers.” Ultimately, Steve’s mission is to build community through music--saving the world one song at a time! (\$300; 40-60 minutes. Indoors or outside.)

**STEVE BLUNT & MARTY KELLEY (The Original Dynamic Duo):** Two good friends team up for a unique library show with lots of music and laughs. Steve & Marty play fun songs on a variety of musical instruments--and Marty reads a few of his books aloud, with projected illustrations. The program includes Steve’s songs for summer reading 2015, as well as Marty’s latest picture book, *A Cape*—featuring a heroic young protagonist who proves that “Imagination is a Superpower!” (\$450; 50-60 minutes. Indoors only for projected illustrations.)

**STEVE BLUNT & FRIENDS (Children’s Music Band):** Steve and his “super” friends form a mighty little band that plays rockin’ kids’ music for the whole family—with catchy tunes and lively rhythms for singing and dancing. Performing the repertoire of award-winning recording artist, Steve Blunt, the line-up includes author/illustrator Marty Kelley on drums and harmonica; Berklee grad Joe Pierog on bass; and Noelle Boc, the Singing Librarian, on tambourine and ukulele--with Steve taking the lead on vocals and guitar. A totally epic, high-energy performance and a terrific choice for larger library events! (\$600; one hour. Indoors or outside.)

**Length of Programs:** See individual program description above

**Programs suited for:** 0-10 years old

**Program can be performed:** See individual program description above

**Fee:** See individual program description above

**Mileage Charge:** \$0.20 per mile

**Block booking rates available**

**Performance Space Requirements:** Performance area & grounded three-prong electrical outlet.

**Simon Brooks**

253 Barrett Road  
New London, NH 03257  
603-877-0033  
simon@diamondscree.com  
[SimonBrooksStoryteller.com](http://SimonBrooksStoryteller.com)

Contact: Simon Brooks  
Arts Discipline: **Storytelling**

**Program Description:**

Every Hero has a story from poor old Jack to Xena, Warrior Princess! In Switzerland, William Tell freed people from tyranny. Lady Godiva saved the people of Coventry, in England, from heavy taxation, and Ariadne helped Theseus kill the Minotaur. Gretel freed Hansel. There are many other heroines and heroes from folk and fairy tales, and Simon will be sharing these stories, and more, for the summer reading program.

Simon's presentations have the intimacy of a one-on-one conversation, yet pack the intensity of a stage show! Even the most jaded audience will find the power and magic in the stories Simon tells, whether 5 years old, 13, or an adult. These family shows, engaging all listeners, are highlights in many New England communities: bring British storyteller Simon, and his stories to *your* community this summer.

**Length of Program:** 40 - 60 minutes

**Program suited for:** 5 and up

**Program can be performed:** indoors or outdoors

**Fee:** \$225

**Mileage Charge:** federal rate

**Block booking rates available**

**Performance Space Requirements:** Power for an amplifier. Simon brings his own amplifier.

**Workshop Description: Local Heroes:** Simon offers a community workshop where we invite grandparents, parents and children to share stories with each other and learn how to tell their tales in an engaging manner, promoting public speaking skills and confidence. We will use a number of hands (and body parts) on activities, exploring movement, voice and presentation skills to bring out the best to as many tales as we can in the time.

**Length of Workshop:** 90 minutes or more

**Number of participants:** 10

**Fee for one performance and one workshop:** \$500

**David Hyde Costello**

12 Clifton Avenue  
Amherst, MA 01002

413-687-5776  
davidhydecostello@gmail.com  
www.davidhydecostello.com

Contact: David Hyde Costello  
Arts Discipline: **Writing, Illustrating, Puppetry,  
Music**

**Program Descriptions:**

- 1) **I Can Help:** The hero of the story is someone who helps solve a problem. The little duck, who is helped at the beginning of David Hyde Costello's picture book *I Can Help*, returns in the end to be the helper.

All of the animals in *I Can Help* will be familiar to kids, with the possible exception of the sunbird. That's why the sunbird has his own special song at the start of the program. When David reads the book, children will quickly recognize the pattern of the story: one animal is helped by the next, who is helped by the next, and so on. The final page provides a view of the community that is created when individuals pay attention to one another and offer help.

In a brainstorming session with the audience David draws a scene with new animals that continue the story's pattern. The program closes with a visit from a 6-foot-tall giraffe puppet who needs help reaching the delicious-looking leaves of a tree. Audience members supply the problem-solving skills and help complete the scene.

- 2) **Little Pig Joins the Band:** The hero of a story is someone who helps solve a problem. The hero can be any shape or size. In *Little Pig Joins the Band* it is the smallest pig who has the biggest idea. Little Pig's older brothers and sisters try to march and play together as a band, but the results are chaotic and discordant until Little Pig—too little to play any of the instruments himself—pulls the group together under his leadership and marches them to success.

One of the messages of *Little Pig Joins the Band* is that everyone has something to contribute to a group endeavor—especially when it comes to making music. In this mostly-musical author/illustrator program, David Hyde Costello reads his book, shares some of his original music, and some of his home-made musical instruments. These are built with materials that are either very inexpensive or found in a typical recycling bin. There is a bit of engineering, a bit of invention, and a lot of entertainment designed to nurture the idea that when it comes to making music, everyone can join the band.

**Length of Program:** 45 minutes

**Program suited for:** ages 3-8 and families

**Program can be performed:** indoors

**Fee:** \$300

**Mileage Charge:** \$0.25/mile (not to exceed \$75)

**Block booking rates available**

**Performance Space Requirements:** Minimum 4 foot by 8 foot space for the "stage."

## **Hampstead Stage Company**

1053 North Barnstead Road  
Center Barnstead, NH 03225  
800-619-5302  
[info@hampsteadstage.org](mailto:info@hampsteadstage.org)  
[www.hampsteadstage.org](http://www.hampsteadstage.org)

Contact: Michael Towle  
Arts Discipline: **Theatre**

### **Program Description:**

**Heroes and Hercules: Greek Mythology for Kids**—Let Epictetus, the mask-maker, and Ovid, the poet, take you on a journey of the imagination, as you explore the ancient Greek heroes! Follow Greece's greatest hero, Hercules, on his many adventures, as he battles mythological creatures and warriors. Through mask work, poetry, and swordplay, your patrons will discover the early stories of Greece. This play is designed to bring audiences closer to early civilizations by approaching the similarities we all share. This play stands alone and is the second in our Greek Mythology for Kids series.

**Robin Hood:** This play features an adventurous tale of a hero who lived during the reign of the greedy and jealous Prince John. Through the creation of new taxes and laws, the poor were unable to survive the economic hardships of everyday living. Good people were forced to hide in Sherwood Forest for fear of dreadful consequences. Robin of Loxley was brave enough to stand up to this injustice! Through this action-packed story, we hope to educate audiences about the importance of perseverance and leadership.

**Length of Program:** one hour, including Q & A

**Program suited for:** ages 5-12

**Program can be performed:** indoors and outdoors (with prior notice)

**Fee:** \$375

**Mileage Charge:** none

**Performance Space Requirements:** We are very flexible and can perform in any space, but would prefer an area 25 feet by 15 feet.

**Workshop Description:** We have several workshops to choose from including the following: *Animal Physicality, Creating a Character, Improvisation, and Stage Combat* For detailed descriptions, please go to our website and click on Workshops!

**Length of Workshop:** 45 minutes

**Workshop suited for:** See website for information about age suitability for the different workshops

**Number of participants:** maximum of 35 students

**Fee for one performance and one workshop:** \$475

**Workshop Space Requirements:** None

## **Jungle Jim**

27 B Putnam Street  
Somerville, MA 02143

Contact: Jungle Jim  
Arts Discipline: **Balloon Artistry, Magic & Theater**

617-223-1700  
Jim@JungleJimBoston.com  
[ILoveMyLibrary.com](http://ILoveMyLibrary.com)

### **Program Description: Jungle Jim's Superhero Training**

Jungle Jim challenges the audience to see if they have what it takes to be a hero. This program captures their attention by turning patrons into superheroes themselves. Volunteers from the audience are transformed (with balloons, of course) into traditional superheroes the kids know and identify with: Batman, Wonder Woman and the like. Jim then goes into a group exercise—the Spiderman Web Challenge, which involves snaring the whole audience into a giant balloon web!

The show progresses to talk about the heroes in our daily lives: police officers, teachers, firefighters, nurses, librarians. What is it about them that make them heroes? Who are the heroes in the children's lives?

Lastly, Jim will lead the audience through the idea that they can be heroes themselves! We discuss what they can do to achieve the goal: helping out at home, facing their fears, returning library materials on time, etc. As a reward for the children completing their big challenge, Jungle Jim will meet his toughest challenge and attempt to climb inside of a 6-foot balloon!

**Length of Program:** 45 minutes

**Program suited for:** ages 3-10

**Program can be performed:** indoors or outdoors if there is an overhead covering for performance space

**Fee:** \$499

**Mileage Charge:** \$0.50/mile

**Block booking rates available**

**Performance Space Requirements:** Access to electricity, 3 foot by 6 foot performance space and six foot table

## **Big Joe the Storyteller**

60 Sutherland Road  
Brighton, MA 02135  
617-713-4349  
bigjoe@bigjoe.com  
[www.bigjoe.com](http://www.bigjoe.com)

Contact: Joe Pagliuca  
Arts Discipline: **Storytelling**

### **Program Description:**

Heroes come in all shapes and sizes, and each one has an amazing story! Big Joe will tell those tales and take listeners on a journey they won't soon forget. With a collection of classic stories, multicultural tales and original works told with props, puppets, and lots of audience participation, Big Joe gives a performance that will delight, amaze, and thrill! His show features heroes of all sorts including a wise little girl (Kimmy Meets the Ogre), a daring from (The Fire and the Frog), a brave farm boy (The Greatest Weapon in the World), a little fly (The Teeny Tiny Fly and the Whale) and a gentle giant (Big Jim). Big Joe's show is perfect for all ages and suited for anyone who wants to hear heroic tales and find the hero in themselves!

**Length of Program:** 45 minutes

**Program suited for:** Preschool – Grade 5

**Program can be performed:** indoors and outdoors

**Fee:** \$350

**Mileage Charge:** none

**Block booking rates available**

**Performance Space Requirements:** Chair and access to electrical outlet. If outdoors, Big Joe will use self-powered sound system.

**Bryson Lang**

241 Lowell St. #5  
Andover, MA 01810  
818-679-6303  
brysonlang@hotmail.com  
[www.brysonlang.com](http://www.brysonlang.com)

Contact: Bryson Lang  
Arts Discipline: **Comedy/Juggling**

**Program Description:**

Elementary and middle-school kids, teenagers, adults and seniors alike will enjoy Bryson Lang's family-friendly comedy-juggling show. Bryson uses ball-spinning, object manipulation, original comedy and audience participation to create a unique and visual performance experience. He combines performing to music and audience-member assisted comedy routines to create an exciting, interactive show. You will definitely see things you haven't seen before and you'll be laughing along the way. He's technical, he's silly and he's entertaining. Come see why Bryson Lang is "The Cure for the Common Show"!

**Length of Program:** 45 minutes

**Program suited for:** All ages

**Program can be performed:** indoors and outdoors (but indoors is preferable)

**Fee:** \$400

**Mileage Charge:** Federal rate if further than a two-hour drive

**Block booking rates available**

**Performance Space Requirements:** If indoors, a ceiling at least 8 feet high. Indoors or outdoors, access to one power outlet.



### **Lindsay & Her Puppet Pals**

11 Province Road  
Strafford, NH 03884  
603-393-5565  
bezich@gmail.com  
[www.LindsaysPuppetPals.com](http://www.LindsaysPuppetPals.com)

Contact: Lindsay Aucella (formerly L. Bezich)  
Arts Discipline: **Puppetry**

#### **Program Description:**

There will be giggles galore when these life-sized puppets take the stage! Filled with audience interaction and lovable characters, Lindsay's charming short sketches delight the young and the young at heart!

This year the show will feature capes, masks, and misguided acts of strength and bravery, but some of our unlikely puppet heroes will also demonstrate true courage. Even a sheep can save the day!

Throughout the show kids are invited to participate via call and response, contributing ideas, delivering props, playing simple roles, etc.

**Length of Program:** one hour

**Program suited for:** ages 3-8

**Program can be performed:** indoors and outdoors

**Fee:** \$300

**Mileage Charge:** \$0.50/mile beyond first 100 miles  
round trip

**Block booking rates available**

**Performance Space Requirements:** Floor space at least 5 foot by 10 feet. Lindsay will bring her battery-powered sound system if needed.

**Keith Munslow**

PO Box 40173  
Providence, RI 02940  
781-400-5310

[lauri@treetopartists.com](mailto:lauri@treetopartists.com)  
[www.keithmunslow.com](http://www.keithmunslow.com)

Contact: Lauri Chmielewski  
Arts Discipline: **Storytelling, Music, Comedy**

**Program Description:**

**Songs & Stories, Cartoons & Comedy:** Keith's highly interactive show will delight everyone with a unique mix of funny, original songs and stories, tongue-twisting poems, oddball characters and on-the-spot cartoon drawing. Keith's rhythmic piano, skillful drawing and quick wit combine for an upbeat, positive experience with lots of audience participation. It's a fast-paced ride, so hang on and don't blink—you might miss something!

**Length of Program:** 45 – 50 minutes

**Program suited for:** Grades K-6

**Program can be performed:** indoors and outdoors (with prior notice)

**Fee:** \$400

**Mileage Charge:** \$0.56/mile

**Block booking rates available**

**Performance Space Requirements:** none

**Workshop Descriptions:**

- Illustration (grades K-6): The focus here is on originality, not simply drawing ability. This workshop will help kids tap into their creativity and problem-solving skills.
- Songwriting (grades 1-6): Kids learn not only the basics of rhythm, rhyme, meter and melody, but also that tying your shoes, missing the bus or eating a gross hot lunch can be the stuff of great music.
- Improv (grades 4-12): Using a mix of theatrical warm ups and comedy improv games, we will dive into the fast-paced work of improvisation. This exciting group program teaches teamwork, give/take and creative problem-solving.

**Length of Workshop:** one hour to 90 minutes

**Workshop suited for:** different age groups depending on workshop (see workshop description)

**Number of participants:** maximum of 30

**Fee for one performance and one workshop:** \$600

**Workshop Space Requirements:** None

**Norman Ng**

PO Box 446  
Bar Mills, ME 04004  
800-307-8959 ext. 2

Contact: Crystal Presby  
Arts Discipline: **Magic**

[norman@normanmagic.com](mailto:norman@normanmagic.com) or [crystal@nmp-talent.com](mailto:crystal@nmp-talent.com)  
[normanmagic.com](http://normanmagic.com) or [nmagic4kids.com](http://nmagic4kids.com)

**Program Description:**

Magician Norman Ng demonstrates magic super powers in his interactive, hilarious, and amazing magic show. Kids and parents get to participate as Norman makes objects materialize out of air; move at the speed of light; levitate; and much more! Norman also expertly incorporates the “Hero” summer reading theme and explains that the true source of his power comes from knowledge acquired from reading books.

**Length of Program:** 45 minutes

**Program suited for:** all ages

**Program can be performed:** indoors and outdoors

**Fee:** \$500

**Mileage Charge:** \$0.56/mile

**Block booking rates available**

**Performance Space Requirements:** electricity, masking tape, water

**Workshop Description:** Norman teaches kids simple yet amazing magic tricks they can do at home! Norman not only teaches the tricks, but also teaches kids WHY the magic works. It’s science, art and crafts all in one program. You don’t need super powers to do amazing things-- just knowledge and practice!

**Length of Workshop:** one hour

**Workshop suited for:** K-12

**Number of participants:** 30

**Fee for one performance and one workshop:** \$900

**Workshop Space Requirements:** Large room with rectangular tables for each participant.

**Andrew Pinard**

12 Church Street  
Bradford, NH 03221  
603-938-5158  
[info@absomagic.com](mailto:info@absomagic.com)  
[www.absomagic.com](http://www.absomagic.com)

Contact: Andrew Pinard  
Arts Discipline: **Magic & Comedy**

**Program Description:**

Alejandro's Olde Tyme Magik Showe is a wonderful one-man stand-up show with an emphasis on audience participation, visual magic, and physical comedy guaranteed to enchant and amuse the whole family. Blending magic, storytelling, and comedy with a little help from volunteer assistants, Andrew Pinard leads audiences on a guided tour of the impossible and absurd, taking them on a journey through his zany world of wonder.

For the "Every Hero has a Story" theme, a couple of the performance pieces will feature audience volunteers as superheroes, including giving them super powers which they can then demonstrate to the group.

**Length of Program:** 45 minutes to one hour

**Program suited for:** ages 3 and up

**Program can be performed:** indoors and outdoors (heat/shade restrictions)

**Fee:** \$450

(early booking discount of \$50 if booked by March 31)

**Mileage Charge:** \$0.56 /mile  
beyond 60 miles roundtrip from base

**Block booking rates available**

**Performance Space Requirements:** Open performance space 6 feet deep by 8 feet wide and a standard electrical outlet.

**Workshop Description:** How to be a Superhero (or just act like one): Learn some "super" tricks including centrifugal force, mathemagic, optical illusions and other tricks that kids can create at home. Workshops include one support teaching packet for librarians with reference material. Each attendee will receive a free workshop book with explanations on how to perform "super" magic.

**Length of Workshop:** 45-60 minutes

**Workshop suited for:** ages 8+

**Number of participants:** maximum of 20

**Fee for one performance and one workshop:** \$600

**Workshop Space Requirements:** Open Room with enough table space/seats for attendees